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racle. All he contends for, which the warmest opposers of miracles will not contest with him, is, that men of uncommon powers can do things which those of common powers cannot, and which appear contrary to the common course of nature."

Lavater also published a volume of Aphorisms on Man: the maxims are such as might be expected from a man who had looked at mankind through the medium of a singular genius. They discover much originality of sentiment and expression, and evince that the author had made insight into human character his principal study; some of the Aphorisms are, however, enveloped in obscurity, which many readers are not able to penetrate.

It may perhaps be thought a sort of equitable retribution, that he who wished to teach others the art of reading the characters of men, should have his own secret thoughts exhibited to the world: yet the manner in which the "Secret Journal of a self-observer;" or the confessions

and familiar letters of the Rev. J. C. Lavater," has been presented to the world is not by any means justifiable.

Lavater, in addition to his works already mentioned, composed sacred hymns and national songs, which were much esteemed for their simplicity. He extended to religion the same enthusiasm which he employed in his researches on physiognomy, and his poetical compositions: the warmth of his imagination hurried him on to adopt whatever was fanciful and extraordinary; to outstep the limits of sober reason; to be an advocate for the efficacy of absolute faith: for inward illuminations; for supernatural visions, and for the miraculous effects of what is called animal magnetism in the cure of disorders.

The insinuating address of Lavater, the vivacity of his conversation, the amenity of manners, and the singularity and animation of his style, have contributed more to diffuse his system and principles, than sound arguments or deep learning.

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## DETACHED ANECDOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

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### LITERARY SUICIDES.

WHAT can be the reason, that authors, so greedy of fame as they are, should be so accessary to their own premature death, and, as the phrase is, write themselves out? It is because, at this time, as in the days of Horace, literary glory itself gives place to the love of money, and, after spending one-half of life in labouring for reputation as an author, the other half is engaged in selling it to the best profit, and converting character into cash. The booksellers of London are principal agents in thus

seducing writers to their ruin, robbing them of their fair fame, and then disposing of it in the market at an extraordinary price, until it at once sinks into a sad and irrecoverable depreciation. It was well and wittily said, by one of these kept labourers in literature, at the bottom of a well-covered table of a celebrated bookseller, "Ah! Mr. ....," addressing himself to the giver of the feast, "you are like one of the Indian warriors, you *drink out of our skulls*." And indeed these booksellers, wishing merely to make the most of an

author, and to profit by his run of popularity, stimulate, and, in fact, bribe literary men to publish, and then *republish* themselves, until they are completely written *out*, and the flame of pure and original genius expires in a snuff. "They see," according to Dr. Johnson, "a short way to present praise, and not sufficiently inquiring by what means the ancients have continued to delight through all the changes of human manners, they content themselves with a deciduous laurel, of which the verdure in its spring is bright and gay, but which time has been continually stealing from their brows." The Scottish authors appear most remarkable for this *self-immolation*. Home, who wrote one of the best of modern tragedies, Douglas, was employed for the latter part of a long life, in writing other plays, long ago forgotten, which were very poor copies of his first happy performance. The booksellers filch from the authors their good name, and make them poor indeed!

A.P.

#### METAPHORICAL DEATH OF THE SOUL.

Simon Brown, a writer of some celebrity in the last century, after falling into that partial derangement, which on one subject only discovers insanity, while he retained his usual capability in other respects, wrote a metaphysical treatise, in which much sound reasoning was displayed. But in the dedication of it to Queen Caroline, his insanity appeared in the declaration, that his soul, or thinking principle, had totally perished, while a mere animal life only remained. Was this the hallucinations of insanity, or a real representation of what the author frequently met with in the daily occurrences of life? A lady, who in early and middle life had discovered

symptoms of possessing some portion of the thinking principle, devotes herself to cards, and in her common conversation scarcely discovers the smallest appearance of a ray of the Divinity. She neither reads nor reflects, but regularly every evening plays at cards. A man shows public spirit, feels a spark of the sacred flame of liberty in his juvenile years, he becomes rich, loses his patriotism, divides his time entirely between luxury and the love of accumulation, loses his animation, and sinks down into a grovelling man of pleasure. He makes money to spend on selfish gratification, and merely lives to eat. Has not such a man lost his rational faculty, and dwindled into a man without a soul?

K.

#### AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, ON A TRIAL FOR MURDER.

The following story is very extraordinary, as the facts adduced on the trial against the prisoner, are of such a nature, that, though perfectly innocent, he must have been hanged, had he been tried by the most upright and enlightened jury ever assembled.

Any person, who has visited our criminal courts, must have been forcibly struck with the patience evinced by the judge and jury, in matters of life and death; and with pride have recognized the humane principle, that "it is better ten guilty should escape, than one innocent should suffer."

On perusal of the following story, however, we cannot help shuddering to think, that, in a country where this humane principle prevails, such is the fallacious nature of human testimony, that an individual, perfectly innocent, was placed in the most odious light; and was on the point of forfeiting his life to laws which he had not violated!

IN the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a person was arraigned before Sir James Dyer, Lord-Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, upon an indictment for the murder of a man, who dwelt in the same parish with the prisoner. The first witness against him deposed, that on a certain day, mentioned by the witness, in the morning, as he was going through a close, which he particularly described, at some distance from the path, he saw a person lying in a condition which denoted him to be either dead or drunk; that he went to the party, and found him actually dead, two wounds appearing in his breast, and his shirt and clothes much stained with blood; that the wounds appeared to the witness to have been given by the puncture of a fork, or some such instrument; and, looking about, he discovered a fork lying near the corpse, which he took up, and discovered it to be marked with the initials of the prisoner's name; the witness, at the same time, produced the fork in court, which the prisoner owned to be his, and waived asking the witness any questions.

A second witness deposed, that, on the morning of the day on which the deceased was killed, the witness had risen early with an intention to go to a neighbouring market-town, which he named; that, as he was standing in the entry of his own dwelling-house, the street-door being open, he saw the prisoner come by, dressed in a suit of clothes, the colour and fashion of which the witness described; that he (the witness) was prevented from going to market, and that afterwards the first witness brought notice to the town, of the death and wounds of the deceased, and of the prisoner's fork being found near the corpse; that upon this report the prisoner was appre-

hended, and carried before a justice of peace, whom he named and pointed at, he being then present in court; that he (the witness) followed the prisoner to the justice's house, and attended his examination, during which he observed the exchange of raiment which the prisoner had made, since the time the witness had first seen him in the morning; that, at the time of such examination, the prisoner was dressed in the same clothes which he had on at the time of his trial, and that on the witness's charging him with having changed his clothes, he gave several shuffling answers, and would have denied it; that upon the witness's mentioning this circumstance of the change of dress, the justice granted a warrant to search the prisoner's house for the clothes described by the witness as having been put off since the morning; that the witness attended, and assisted at the search, and that after a nice inquiry for two hours and upwards, the very clothes which the witness had described were discovered concealed in a straw bed. He then produced the bloody clothes in court, which the prisoner owned to be his clothes, and to have been thrust into the straw bed with an intention to conceal them, on account of their being bloody.

The prisoner also waived asking this second witness any questions.

A third witness deposed to his having heard the prisoner deliver certain menaces against the deceased, from whence the prosecutor intended to infer a proof of *malice propense*. In answer to which, the prisoner proposed certain questions to the court, leading to a discovery of the occasion of the menacing expressions deposed to, and, from the witness's answer to those questions, it appeared, that the deceased had first menaced the prisoner.

The prisoner being called upon to make his defence, addressed the following narration to the court, as containing all he knew concerning the manner and circumstances of the death of the deceased, viz.—“That he rented a close in the same parish with the deceased, and that the deceased rented another close adjoining to it; that the only way to his close was through that of the deceased, and that on the day the murder in the indictment was said to be committed, he rose early in the morning, in order to go to work in his close, with his fork in his hand, and passing through the deceased’s ground, he observed a man at some distance from the path, lying down, as if dead or drunk; that he thought himself bound to see what condition the person was in, and upon getting up to him, he found him at the last extremity, with two wounds at his breast, from which a great deal of blood had issued; that in order to relieve him, he raised him up, and with great difficulty set him in his lap; that he told the deceased he was greatly concerned at his unhappy fate, and the more so as there seemed to be too much reason to apprehend he had been murdered; that he entreated the deceased to discover, if possible, the occasion of his misfortune, assuring him he would use his utmost endeavours to do justice to his sufferings; that the deceased seemed to be sensible of what he said, and in the midst of his agonies attempted, as he thought, to speak to him, but being seized with a rattling in his throat, after a hard struggle, he gave a dreadful groan, and vomiting a great deal of blood, some of which fell on his (the prisoner’s) clothes, he expired in his arms; that the shock he felt on account of this accident was not to be expressed, and the rather, as it was well known that there had been a difference between the deceased and himself, on which account he might possibly be suspected of the murder; that he, therefore, thought it advisable to leave the deceased in the condition he was, and to take no farther notice of the matter; that, in the confusion he was in when he left the place, he took away the deceased’s fork, and left his own in the room of it, by the side of the corpse; that being obliged to go to his work, he thought it best to shift his clothes, and that they might not be seen, he confessed he had hid them in the place where they were found; that it was true he had denied before the justice that he had changed his clothes, being conscious that this was an ugly circumstance that might be urged against him, and being unwilling to be brought into trouble, if he could help it; and concluded his story, with a solemn declaration, that he had related nothing but the truth, without adding or diminishing one tittle, as he should answer it to God Almighty.” Being then called upon to produce his witnesses, he answered, with a steady composed countenance, and resolution of voice, *he had no witness, but God and his own conscience.*

The judge then proceeded to deliver his charge, in which he pathetically enlarged on the heinousness of the crime, and laid great stress on the force of the evidence, which, although circumstantial only, he declared he thought to be irresistible, and little inferior to the most positive proof; that the prisoner had indeed cooked up a very plausible story, but if such, or the like allegations, were to be admitted, in a case of this kind, no murderer would ever be brought to justice, such bloody deeds being generally perpetrated in the dark, and with the greatest secrecy; that the present case was

exempted, in his opinion, from all possibility of doubt, and that they ought not to hesitate one moment about finding the prisoner guilty.

The foreman begged of his Lordship, as this was a case of life and death, that the Jury might be at liberty to withdraw, and, upon this motion, an officer was sworn to keep the Jury.

This trial came on the first in the morning, and the Judge having sat till nine at night, expecting the return of the jury, at last sent an officer to inquire if they were agreed in their verdict, and to signify to them that his Lordship would wait no longer for them. Some of them returned for answer, that eleven of their body had been of the same mind from the first, but that it was their misfortune to have a foreman that proved to be a singular instance of the most inveterate obstinacy, who having taken up a different opinion from them, was unalterably fixed in it. The messenger was no sooner returned, than the complaining members, alarmed at the thoughts of being kept under confinement all night, and despairing of bringing their dissenting brother over to their own way of thinking, agreed to accede to his opinion, and having acquainted him with their resolution, they sent an officer to detain his Lordship a few minutes, and then went into court, and by their foreman brought in the prisoner not guilty. His Lordship could not help expressing the greatest surprise and indignation at this unexpected verdict; and, after giving the jury a severe admonition, he refused to record their verdict, and sent them back again, with directions that they should locked up all night, without fire or candle. The whole blame was publicly laid on the foreman, by the rest of the members, and they spent the night in loading

him with reflections, and bemoaning their fate in being associated with so hardened a wretch; but he remained quite inflexible, constantly declaring, he would suffer death rather than change his opinion.

As soon as his lordship came into court the next morning, he sent again to the jury, on which all the eleven members joined in requesting their foreman to go again into court, assuring him they would adhere to their former verdict, whatever was the consequence, and, on being reproached with their former inconstancy, they promised never to desert, or recriminate upon their foreman any more. Upon these assurances, they proceeded into court, and again brought in the prisoner not guilty. The judge, unable to conceal his rage at a verdict which appeared to him in the most iniquitous light, reproached them with the severest censures, and dismissed them with the cutting reflection, *that the blood of the deceased lay at their door.*

The prisoner, on his part, fell on his knees, and with uplifted eyes and hands, thanked God for his deliverance, and addressing himself to the judge, cried out, "*You see, my Lord, that God and a good conscience are the best of witnesses.*"

These circumstances made a deep impression on the mind of the Judge, and as soon as he was retired from court, he entered into discourse with the high sheriff, upon what had passed, and particularly examined him as to his knowledge of this leader of the Jury. The answer this gentleman gave his Lordship was, that he had been acquainted with him many years; that he had an estate of his own of above £.50 per annum, and that he rented a very considerable farm besides; that he never knew him charged with an ill action, and that he was univer-

sally esteemed in his neighbourhood

For further information his lordship likewise sent for the minister of the parish, who gave the same favourable account of his parishioner, with this addition, that he was a constant churchman and a devoted communicant.

These accounts rather increased his lordship's perplexity, from which he could think of no expedient to deliver himself, but by having a conference in private with the only person who could give him satisfaction. This he desired the sheriff to procure, who readily offered his service, and brought about the desired interview.

Upon the juryman's being introduced to the judge, his lordship and he retired into a closet, where his lordship opened his reasons for desiring that visit, making no scruple of acknowledging the uneasiness he was under, and conjuring his visitor frankly to discover his reasons for acquitting the prisoner. The juryman returned for answer that he had sufficient reasons to justify his conduct, and that he was neither afraid nor ashamed, to reveal them, but as he had hitherto locked them up in his own breast, and was under no compulsion to disclose them, he expected his lordship would engage upon his honour to keep what he was about to unfold as secret as he himself had done: which his lordship having promised to do, the juryman then proceeded to give his lordship the following account: "That the deceased being titheman of the parish where he (the juryman) lived, he had the morning of his decease, been in his (the juryman's) grounds amongst his corn, and had done him great injustice, by taking more than his due, and acting otherwise in a most arbitrary manner. That when he complained of this treatment, he had not only been a-

bused with scurrilous language, out that the deceased had likewise struck at him several times with his fork; and had actually wounded him in two places, the scars of which wounds he then shewed his lordship; that the deceased seeming bent on mischief, and he (the juryman) having no weapon to defend himself, had no other way to preserve his own life, but by closing in with the deceased, and wrenching the fork out of his hands; which having effected, the deceased attempted to recover the fork, and in the scuffle received the two wounds which had occasioned his death; that he was inexpressibly concerned at the accident, and especially when the prisoner was taken up on suspicion of the murder; that the former assizes being just over, he was unwilling to surrender himself, and to confess the matter, because his farm and affairs would have been ruined by his lying in gaol so long; that he was sure to have been acquitted, for that he had consulted the ablest lawyers upon the case, who had all agreed, that as the deceased had been the aggressor, he would only be guilty of manslaughter at the most; that it was true he had suffered greatly in his own mind on the prisoner's account, but being well assured that imprisonment would be of less ill consequence to the prisoner than to himself, he had suffered the law to take its course; that in order to render the prisoner's confinement as easy to him as possible, he had given him every kind of assistance, and had wholly supported his family ever since; that in order to get him cleared of the charge laid against him, he could think of no other expedient than that of procuring himself to be summoned on the jury, and set at the head of them, which with great labour and expense he had accomplished, having all along deter-

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mined in his own breast, rather to die himself than suffer any harm to be done to the prisoner."

His lordship expressed great satisfaction at this account, and after thanking him for it, and making this further stipulation, that in case his lordship should happen to survive him, he might then be at liberty to relate this story, that it might be delivered down to posterity, the conference broke up.

The juryman lived 15 years afterwards, the judge inquired after him every year, and happening to survive him, delivered the above relation. [Liverpool Mercury.]

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A few years ago, an instance occurred at Armagh, which shows the danger of implicitly trusting to circumstantial evidence in case of murder. The post-boy carrying the mail from Newry to Market-hill and Armagh, was murdered on the road to Market hill, and his body found in a field at a short distance from the road. A porter who wrought on the quay at Newry was taken on suspicion, and on the trial at the ensuing Assizes at Armagh, several witnesses swore, that they had seen this man, who was the more remarkable for being lame, follow the post-boy on different parts of the road. The prisoner produced evidence of an alibi; but neither the Judge nor eleven of the Jury believed his defence. A general persuasion impressed most, or all the spectators of a crowded court, that he was guilty. One juror alone held out, and without being able to assign any cause of his opposition to the general sentiment, refused to find the man guilty. The other members of the jury at length complied with what they considered an unreasonable scruple, and agreed to a verdict of acquittal. The Judge was much dissatisfied with the verdict, and ordered the

man to be detained in prison till next assizes, to give an opportunity to the next of kin to the boy to prosecute *by appeal*.\* Shortly after the assizes, a notorious mail-robber was arrested on another charge, when he confessed he had murdered the post-boy. He was afterwards tried, and found guilty of the murder, and was executed. It is almost superfluous to mention, that the first man was instantly liberated by order of the judge, when he received an account of the acknowledgment of the real murderer.

#### BON MOT.

A lady having begged Madame de Cornuel to seek a governor for her son, specifying such a number of qualifications as never came to the lot of any one man; Madame de Cornuel wrote her the following answer: "Madam, I have inquired after such a governor for your son as you have described; I have not yet found one, but I shall continue my inquiries, and I assure you, that the instant that I have met with one who exactly answers your description, I—shall marry him!"

#### The new age of Lewis XIV.

#### NEW DISCOVERY.

A gentleman of some merit has discovered a very proper substitute for the harsh disagreeable term of *Regium Donum*, which will not so much hurt the feelings of the Reverend Fathers, by instituting the more moderate term of *Bills payable at Six Months*.

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\* A prosecution by appeal, is a right given to the relations of the deceased, who by his death have lost his services to indict the murderer. Appeal does not, in this case, bear the usual meaning of applying to one tribunal to alter the judgment of another court. It is derived from a more direct meaning of the Latin word *appello*. It is a call for recompense for the injuries sustained by certain near relations. B.M.M.



## ÆROLITES, OR METEORIC STONES.

*The following is an abstract of a Table drawn up by M. Izarn, a philosopher, who has paid great attention to this subject; it exhibits a collection of the best authenticated instances of these phenomena.*

<i>Substances.</i>	<i>Places where they fell.</i>	<i>Period of their fall.</i>	<i>Testimony.</i>
Shower of Stones.....	at Rome ...	under Tullius Hostilius	Livy
Shower of Stones.....	at Rome ...	Consuls, C. Martius & M. Torquatus.	I. Obsequens
Shower of Iron ...	in Lucania ...	Year before the defeat of Crassus	Pliny
Shower of Mercury ...	in Italy ...	unknown ...	Dion
A very large stone ...	near river Negos, Thrace	second year 78 Olympiad ...	Pliny
Three large stones ...	in Thrace ...	before Christ 452 ...	C. of Count Marcellin
Large stone of 260lbs.	Ensisheim, Upper Rhine	November 7, 1492 ...	Butenschoen
Mass of Iron, 15 quint....	Abakank, Siberia ...	very old ...	Pallas, Chaldni, &c.
About 1200 stones; one 120, and other 60lbs.	Padua, in Italy ...	in 1510 ...	Cardan, Vascit
Stone of 59lbs.	on Mt. Vaiser province	November 27, 1627	Gasendi
Two large stones	Ireland ...	in 1695 ...	Muschenbroeck
Stone of 72lbs.	Macedonia ...	January, 1706 ...	Paul Lucas
Shower of sand for 15 hours	in the Atlantic ...	April 6, 1709 ...	Père La Feuillé
Shower of stones	Barboutan, near Roquefort	July, 1738 ...	Darcet jun. Lomet, &c.
Shower of stones	at Plaut, Bohemia	July, 5, 1753 ...	B. de Born
A stony mass ...	Niort, in Normandy	in 1750 ...	De Lalande
Two stones of 200 and 300lbs.	near Verona ...	in 1762 ...	Acad. de Bourd
A stone of 7½lb.	at Luce, in La Maine	September 13, 1768	Bachelay
A stone ...	at Aix, in Artois ...	in 1768 ...	Gurson de Boyaval
A stone ...	in La Contentin ...	in 1768 ...	Morand
Great shower of stones	Environs of Agen ...	July 24, 1790 ...	St Amand, Baudin, &c.
Twelve stones ...	Sienna, Tuscany, ...	July, 1794 ...	Earl of Bristol
A stone or 56lb.	Wold Cottage, Yorkshire ...	December, 13, 1795	Captain Topham
A stone of 10lb.	in Portugal	February 19, 1796	Southey
A stone of 20lb.	Salé, department of the Rhone	March 17, 1798 ...	De Drée
Shower of stones	Benarés, East Indies	December 19, 1798	Lloyd Williams, esq.
A stone of 20lb.	Salés, near Villa Franche	March 12, 1798 ...	De Drée
Mass of Iron 70 cub. ft.	America ...	April 5, 1800 ...	Philosophical Magazine
Stones from 10 to 17lb.	near l'Aigle, Normandy	April 26, 1803 ...	Foucray.

*Barlow's Mathematical and Philosophical Dictionary.*